

Haverhill Women's Literary Union Records, 1892-1903

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 67
Creator:	Haverhill Women's Literary Union
Title:	Haverhill Women's Literary Union Records
Dates:	1892-1903
Size:	2 linear feet (2 boxes)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	The Haverhill Women's Literary Union records document the administration and activities of the organization from its inception in 1892 until 1903.

Organizational History

The Haverhill Women's Literary Union was founded in 1892 to "raise the standard of culture and of right living in the community." It was comprised of members of women's clubs which had to have been in existence for one year. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Charles H. Goodwin and attended by two delegates from each of the ten literary clubs of Haverhill and Bradford, Massachusetts.

The original clubs in the Union were: Bradford Saturday Evening Club, Haverhill Book Club, Hosford Club, Ladies' Monday Club, Leisure Hour Club, Papyrus Club, Quaere Club, the Reading Guild, the Saturday Book Club, and XV Club. Dues were fifty cents per member annually. In 1892, there were eleven clubs and 149 members.

In June 1894, the Union joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs. By 1895, seventeen women's clubs were united in this federation. Meetings were held monthly in private homes. Each club was represented at these meetings by a manager. The six standing committees were Finance, Program, Education, Civic, Art and Literature, and Music. In May 1896, they joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Additional clubs that were part of the union were the Round Table Club, Shakespeare Club, XIV Club, October Club, Nineteenth Club, and Epworth Club. The Union laid the groundwork for establishing the Haverhill Historical Society, the Hospital Aid Association, vacation schools, and boys' clubs.

According to the *Sunday Record* of 17 May 1903, the Literary Union disbanded on 16 May 1903, and, in its place, the Haverhill Woman's Club was formed. The new club's purpose was to "unite the women of [Haverhill] in an organization that may serve to raise the standard of culture and of right living in the community." Membership was limited to 250 women. The Woman's Club records at the Haverhill Public Library Special Collections (MSS 60) has a different origin story and purpose, so it is not clear exactly what happened.

Arrangement

Series 1. Administration, 1892-1903, undated

Scope and Content Note

The Haverhill Women's Literary Union records document the administration and activities of the organization from its inception in 1892 until 1903. It has been arranged in one series which contains the constitution, by-laws, programs, calendars, tickets, newspaper clippings, a ballot, and two record books.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Haverhill Women's Literary Union Records, MSS 67, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Unknown.
Acquisition Information:	Several small items were a gift of Nellie M. Moore and others. The record book dated 1892 to 1900 was donated by Mary W. Johnson (#176109). The record book dated 1900-1903 was donated by Mrs. John Sanborn (#165091). It is not known how the rest of the records came to the Haverhill Public Library.
Processing Information:	Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	None.
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Related Collections: None.

Separated Material: None.

Conservation Notes: Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper.

Subjects: Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Haverhill (Mass.) – History
Haverhill Women's Literary Union (Haverhill, Mass.)
Programs
Women – Massachusetts -- Haverhill
Women -- Societies and clubs
Women in charitable work

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Administration, 1892-1903, undated

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Constitution and by-laws, 1892	1	1
Record book, 1892-1900	2	
Programs, 1894-1902, undated	1	2
Prospectuses (annual calendars), 1894-1903	1	3
Tickets, 1895-1900	1	4
News clippings, 1895-1903, undated	1	5
Officers, members, program, etc., 1896, 1898	1	6
Record book, 1900-1903	1	7
Ballot, undated	1	8